UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,436	01/18/2002	George R. Walgrove III	H10192/DPS	5449

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EXAMINER
MILIA, MARK R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/054,436	WALGROVE ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark R. Milia	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _13 March 2008_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
    closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-30_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-30_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)   5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.   6)☐ Other: _____

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   **Office Action Summary**   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20080613

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment was received on 3/13/08 and has been entered and
made of record. Currently, claims 1-30 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments, see pages 13-14 of the remarks, filed 3/13/08, with
respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 6, 11-13, 20, and 29 under U.S.C. 103(a) have
been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.
However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of
newly found prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can
be found in a prior Office action.

4.   Claims 1, 6, 13, 16, 18-22, 24, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as
being unpatentable over Pitts (US 6345168) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,967,727 to
Kawana.

Regarding claims 1 and 20, Pitts discloses a printing apparatus having a detack charging system, comprising: a processor (see Fig. 1 "30"), and a detack charger operatively connected to said processor (see Fig. 1 "16", column 3 lines 1-3 and 10-12, and column 4 lines 29-35), wherein a programmed signal from said computer enables or disables said detack charger in response to a sheet weight of a sheet of paper fed into said printing apparatus (see column 4 lines 29-35 and 48-65, reference shows that a DC bias, which controls the detack charging system, can be varied depending on the weight of a sheet of paper by a control system, which is analogous to the claim limitation).

Pitts does not disclose expressly turning the power to the charger on and off.

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line 64-column 7 line 37, specifically column 7 lines 32-33, reference states that power to the charger 111 is turned off after when the trailing edge of the sheet reaches the transfer end position and column 5 lines 66-67 show that power has to be turned on to allow transfer of the sheet to begin when printing is to be started).

Regarding claim 6, Pitts discloses a printing machine having a detack charging system, comprising: a computer (see Fig. 1 "30", a computer by definition is anything that can compute and therefore the control system of the reference is a computer as it controls the transfer and detack corotrons), and a detack charger operatively connected to said computer (see Fig. 1 "16", column 3 lines 1-3 and 10-12, and column 4 lines 29-35), wherein a programmed signal from said computer enables or disables said detack charger in response to an attribute of a sheet of paper fed into said printing machine

(see column 4 lines 29-35 and 48-65, reference shows that a DC bias, which controls the detack charging system, can be varied depending on the weight of a sheet of paper by a control system, which is analogous to the claim limitation).

Pitts does not disclose expressly turning the power to the charger on and off.

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line 64-column 7 line 37, specifically column 7 lines 32-33, reference states that power to the charger **111** is turned off after when the trailing edge of the sheet reaches the transfer end position and column 5 lines 66-67 show that power has to be turned on to allow transfer of the sheet to begin when printing is to be started).

Regarding claim 13, Pitts discloses a method of detack charging in an image-forming machine, comprising: receiving a sheet a paper from a feeder (see Fig. 1 "12" and column 2 lines 55-58), said sheet of paper having a sheet weight (see column 4 lines 48-55, it is inherent that every sheet of paper has an associated weight), configuring an interface to receive a sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 37-65, reference shows a user interface "32" that can be used to input paper weights related to a plurality of paper supply trays), generating an enable signal from a central processing unit (CPU) (see Fig. 1 "30") when said sheet weight is less than or equal to said sheet weight limit and enabling a detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65, reference states that lighter papers benefit from the variation in DC bias, which is enabling of a detack charger, reference also states that a user can input the weights of different stocks in different paper supplies and when the sheet is fed to the system the weight would be determined and mapped to an initial bias voltage which would in turn affect the behavior

of the bias voltage during transfer dependent on the weight of the paper), and

generating a disable signal from said CPU when said sheet weight is greater than said

sheet weight limit and disabling said detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65,

reference states that heavier paper do not require a variation in DC bias, which is a

disabling of a detack charger).

Pitts does not disclose expressly turning the power to the charger on and off.

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line

64-column 7 line 37, specifically column 7 lines 32-33, reference states that power to

the charger 111 is turned off after when the trailing edge of the sheet reaches the

transfer end position and column 5 lines 66-67 show that power has to be turned on to

allow transfer of the sheet to begin when printing is to be started).

Regarding claim 29, Pitts discloses a method of detack charging in an image-

forming machine, comprising: receiving a receiver sheet from a feeder (see Fig. 1 "12"

and column 2 lines 55-58), said receiver sheet having a sheet weight (see column 4

lines 48-55, it is inherent that every sheet of paper has an associated weight),

configuring an interface to receive a sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 37-65,

reference shows a user interface "32" that can be used to input paper weights related to

a plurality of paper supply trays), and controlling said detack charger in response to a

programmed signal from a central processing unit (CPU) based on said sheet weight

limit by enabling and disabling the charger (see column 4 lines 29-35 and 48-65,

reference shows that a DC bias, which controls the detack charging system, can be

varied depending on the weight of a sheet of paper by a control system, which is
analogous to the claim limitation).

Pitts does not disclose expressly turning the power to the charger on and off.

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line
64-column 7 line 37, specifically column 7 lines 32-33, reference states that power to
the charger **111** is turned off after when the trailing edge of the sheet reaches the
transfer end position and column 5 lines 66-67 show that power has to be turned on to
allow transfer of the sheet to begin when printing is to be started).

Pitts & Kawana are combinable because they are from the same field of
endeavor, reproduction devices (i.e. copiers, printers, etc.).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary
skill in the art to combine the turning on and off of a charger, as described by Kawana,
with the system of Pitts.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more
accurate regulatory charge means.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kawana with Pitts to obtain
the invention as specified in claims 1, 6, 13, 20, and 29.

Regarding claim 16, Pitts further discloses connecting said CPU to said detack
charger for receiving an enabled and disable signal (see Fig. 1 and column 4 lines 29-
65).

Regarding claim 18, Pitts further discloses configuring said interface to enable said detack charger for a specific sheet of paper in a specific feeder (see Fig. 1 and column 4 lines 29-65).

Regarding claim 19, Pitts further discloses configuring said interface to enable said detack charger for all sheets of paper in a specific feeder (see Fig. 1 and column 4 lines 29-65).

Regarding claim 21, Pitts further discloses wherein said receiver sheet is a sheet of paper (see column 2 lines 55-58 and column 4 lines 48-55).

Regarding claim 22, Pitts further discloses wherein said receiver sheet is a transparency (see column 4 lines 61-65).

Regarding claim 24, Pitts further discloses wherein said programmed signal from said processor, comprises a signal to enable or disable said detack charger (see column 3 line 61-column 4 line 35).

Regarding claim 30, Pitts further discloses generating an enable signal from said CPU when said sheet weight is less than or equal to said sheet weight limit and enabling said detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65), and generating a disable signal from said CPU when said sheet weight is greater than said sheet weight limit and disabling said detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65).

5.   Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitts in view of Myers (US 6,504,556) and Kawana (US 6,967,727).

Regarding claim 11, Pitts discloses a printing machine having a detack charging system, comprising: a feeder to store sheets of paper, said sheets of paper comprising at least one sheet having a sheet weight (see Fig. 1 "12", column 2 lines 55-60, and column 4 lines 48-55, it is inherent that every sheet of paper has an associated weight), an interface having an input device, said interface configured for receiving a sheet weight limit (see Fig. 1 "32" and column 4 lines 29-65), allowing a user to selectively detack said at least one sheet (see column 4 lines 29-65), and a marking engine comprising a central processing unit (CPU) (see Fig. 1 "10" and "30"), a detack charger (see Fig. 1 "16"), said marking engine operatively connected to receive at least one sheet from said feeder (see Fig. 1 and column 2 lines 55-64), said CPU operatively connected to receive said sheet weight limit from said interface, and said detack charger operatively connected to receive a first and a second signal from said CPU (see column 3 line 61-column 4 line 65), where said CPU provides said first signal when said sheet weight of said at least one sheet is less than or equal to said inputted sheet weight limit, and said detack charger is enabled in response to said first signal (see column 4 lines 29-65, reference states that lighter papers benefit from the variation in DC bias, which is enabling of a detack charger, reference also states that a user can input the weights of different stocks in different paper supplies and when the sheet is fed to the system the weight would be determined and mapped to an initial bias voltage which would in turn affect the behavior of the bias voltage during transfer dependent on the weight of the paper), and where said CPU provides said second signal when said sheet weight of said at least one sheet is greater than said inputted sheet weight limit,

and said detack charger is disabled in response to said first signal (see column 4 lines 29-65, reference states that heavier paper do not require a variation in DC bias, which is a disabling of a detack charger).

Pitts does not disclose expressly an interface having a display, said interface further configured to access a menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said at least one sheet and turning the power to the charger on and off.

Myers discloses an interface having an input device and a display, said interface configured for receiving a sheet weight limit, said interface further configured to access a menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said at least one sheet, (see Figs. 4-6 and column 4 lines 1-60), and a marking engine comprising a central processing unit (CPU), having a memory to store said sheet weight limit and a detack charger, said marking engine operatively connected to receive at least one sheet from said feeder, said CPU operatively connected to receive said sheet weight limit from said interface, and said detack charger operatively connected to receive a first and a second signal from said CPU (see Figs. 4-6 and 9, column 2 lines 6-34, column 4 line 39-column 5 line 15, and column 7 lines 40-48 and 53-54).

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line 64-column 7 line 37).

Regarding claim 12, Pitts discloses a method of detack charging in an image-forming machine, comprising receiving a sheet a paper from a feeder (see Fig. 1 and column 2 lines 55-58), said sheet of paper having a sheet weight (see column 4 lines 48-55, it is inherent that every sheet of paper has an associated weight), configuring an

interface to receive a sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 37-65), storing said sheet

weight limit in a memory of a central processing unit (CPU) (see column 4 lines 37-65),

allowing a user to selectively detack said sheet of paper (see column 4 lines 29-65),

connecting said CPU to a detack charger for receiving an enable and disable signal

(see Fig. 1 and column 4 lines 29-65), generating said enable signal from said CPU

when said sheet weight is less than or equal to said sheet weight limit and enabling said

detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65, reference states that lighter papers benefit

from the variation in DC bias, which is enabling of a detack charger, reference also

states that a user can input the weights of different stocks in different paper supplies

and when the sheet is fed to the system the weight would be determined and mapped to

an initial bias voltage which would in turn affect the behavior of the bias voltage during

transfer dependent on the weight of the paper), and generating said disable signal from

said CPU when said sheet weight is greater than said sheet weight limit and disabling

said detack charger (see column 4 lines 29-65, reference states that heavier paper do

not require a variation in DC bias, which is a disabling of a detack charger).

   Pitts does not expressly disclose configuring said interface to access a menu

system, said menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said sheet of paper

and turning the power to the charger on and off.

   Myers discloses configuring said interface to access a menu system, said menu

system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said sheet of paper (see Figs. 4-6 and

column 4 lines 1-60).

Kawana discloses turning the power to the charger on and off (see column 5 line 64-column 7 line 37).

Pitts, Myers, & Kawana are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, effective transfer and detach of paper stock.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of a user interface with a display to configure a plurality of paper stock attributes and to store such a configuration in memory to be utilized by the printing system, as described by Myers, and the turning on and off of the charger, as described by Kawana, with the system of Pitts.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide enhanced efficiency through designation of paper stock attributes to increase the speed at which transferring and imaging can take place and to provide a more accurate regulatory charge means.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Myers and Kawana with Pitts to obtain the invention as specified in claims 11 and 12.

6.   Claims 2-5, 7-10, 14, 15, 17, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitts and Kawana as applied to claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 above, and further in view of Myers.

Regarding claims 2, 7, and 25, Pitts discloses a feeder to store sheets of paper, said sheets of paper comprising at least one sheet having a sheet weight (see Fig. 1 "12" and column 2 lines 55-60, and column 4 lines 48-55), and an interface having an

input device (see Fig. 1 "32") and a display, said interface configured for receiving an inputted sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 29-65), said interface further configured to access a menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said at least one sheet, allowing a user to selectively enable said detack charger for said at least one sheet (see column 4 lines 29-65).

Pitts and Kawana do not disclose expressly an interface having a display, said interface further configured to access a menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said at least one sheet.

Myers discloses a feeder to store sheets of paper, said sheets of paper comprising at least one sheet having a sheet weight (see Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9), and an interface having an input device and a display (see Fig. 9), said interface configured for receiving an inputted sheet weight limit, said interface further configured to access a menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said at least one sheet (see Figs. 4-6 and column 4 lines 1-60).

Regarding claim 14, Pitts and Kawana do not disclose expressly storing said sheet weight limit in a memory of said CPU.

Myers discloses storing said sheet weight limit in a memory of said CPU (see Fig. 6 and column 4 lines 1-60).

Regarding claim 15, Pitts and Kawana do not disclose expressly configuring said interface to access a menu system, said menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said sheet of paper.

Myers discloses configuring said interface to access a menu system, said menu system having a catalog of sheet attributes of said sheet of paper (see Figs. 4-6 and column 4 lines 1-60).

Pitts, Kawana, & Myers are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, effective transfer and detack of paper stock.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of a user interface with a display to configure a plurality of paper stock attributes and to store such a configuration in memory to be utilized by the printing system, as described by Myers, with the system of Pitts and Kawana.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide enhanced efficiency through designation of paper stock attributes to increase the speed at which transferring and imaging can take place.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Myers with Pitts and Kawana to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2, 7, 14, 15, and 25.

Regarding claims 3, 8, and 26, Pitts further discloses a marking engine comprising a central processing unit (CPU) having a memory to store said sheet weight limit (see Fig. 1 "10" and "30"), said marking engine operatively connected to said feeder to receive said at least one sheet from said feeder (see Fig. 1 "12"), said CPU operatively connected to said interface to receive said sheet weight limit from said interface (see Fig. 1 "30" and column 4 lines 29-65), and said detack charger

operatively connected to receive said programmed signal from said CPU (see Fig. 1

"16" and column 4 lines 29-65).

Regarding claims 4 and 27, Pitts further discloses wherein said programmed

signal enables said detack charger when said sheet weight of said at least one sheet is

less than or equal to said sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 29-65).

Regarding claims 5 and 28, Pitts further discloses wherein said programmed

signal disables said detack charger when said sheet weight of said at least one sheet is

greater than said sheet weight limit (see column 4 lines 29-65).

Regarding claim 9, Pitts further discloses wherein said programmed signal

enables said detack charger when said inputted attribute matches a "detack" attribute of

said at least one sheet (see column 4 line 15-column 5 line 15).

Regarding claim 10, Pitts further discloses wherein said programmed signal

disables said detack charger when said inputted attribute matches a "no detack"

attribute of said at least one sheet (see column 4 line 15-column 5 line 15).

Regarding claim 17, Pitts further discloses configuring said interface to enable

said detack charger for a specific sheet of paper (see column 4 lines 29-65).

7.   Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitts and

Kawana as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5257097 to

Pineau et al. as cited on the Information Disclosure Statement dated 5/22/03.

Pitts discloses wherein sheets to be printed upon can be coated paper of

transparencies (see column 4 lines 61-65).

Pitts and Kawana do not disclose expressly wherein said receiver sheet is a tabloid.

Pineau discloses wherein said receiver sheet is a tabloid (see column 2 lines 55-56).

Pitts, Kawana, & Pineau are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, printing documents.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of a tabloid as a paper stock option, as describe by Pineau with the system of Pitts and Kawana.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide more options for paper stock, (as mentioned by Pitts in column 4 lines 61-65) and increased efficiency for determining a particular type of stock.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Pineau with Pitts and Kawana to obtain the invention as specified in claim 23.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571)272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David Moore can be reached at (571) 272-7437. The fax number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark R. Milia
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/Mark R. Milia/

/David K Moore/
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